



*For immediate release*

## IDOC Receives National Award for Sustainability

Indianapolis, IN (November 5, 2012) – Correctional practitioners from across the country gathered in Plainfield, IN last week for the Second National Symposium on Sustainability in Corrections, co-hosted by GreenPrisons and the Indiana Department of Correction, to learn about and discuss the utilization of sustainable products and services in the corrections profession.



*Photo Credit: Karen Hernandez. (L to R) Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Ron Greschner, CEO of 4 Beginnings, Tommy Norris, President of GreenPrisons, and Daron Hall, ACA President and Sheriff of Davidson County, TN.*

During the conference, GreenPrisons presented Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon with the first-ever Rees-Stalder National Award for Sustainability in Corrections. The award recognizes the IDOC's efforts toward creating sustainable practices across all state facilities and for its close collaboration with GreenPrisons, supporting the organization's efforts to promote sustainability in corrections.

The IDOC has become recognized as the national leader in sustainable practices, programs, and construction in corrections. Department-wide efforts have led to a culture of conservation and environmental responsibility and reduced operational costs. IDOC Commissioner Lemmon stated, "The greening of correctional facilities is the responsible thing to do, and the Department is proud to be on the forefront of this important initiative."

Some of the IDOC's greening initiatives include, but are not limited to, rain water collection, recycling, wind and solar energy collection, energy-efficient lighting, water conservation, and bio mass boilers. The Department's recycling programs generate revenue to sustain each program, while reducing disposal costs, and water conservation efforts have resulted in a savings of 1.6 million gallons per day across the Department. Further efficiencies have saved millions of dollars in natural gas usage, sewage disposal, electrical usage and all other utilities.

In addition, these efforts have produced nearly 700 offender jobs within the facilities, providing offenders with marketable, green job skills that that can be utilized upon their release. "Helping offenders learn to think beyond themselves by making efforts to sustain the earth for future generations is one of many positive outcomes from the Department's sustainability efforts," added Commissioner Lemmon.

Over the course of the four-day conference, attendees participated in workshops and heard from various speakers on current and new sustainability solutions and green prison programs from across the country. The conference concluded with over 50 participants from several states touring the Pendleton Correctional Facility to learn about the facility's recent greening efforts, including compost, recycling, and bio mass energy generation.

#### **About the Rees-Stadler Award**

Named in honor of retired Commissioner of Corrections in Kentucky John Rees and retired Secretary of Public Safety and Corrections in Louisiana, Richard Stadler, the Rees-Stalder award acknowledges the significant contributions of both these correctional leaders in bringing the advantages of sustainability to corrections. Rees and Stadler were instrumental in the creation of the American Correctional Association's Clean and Green Committee.

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